

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1900.

CROSBY S. NOYES, Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent family circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. It is a news and advertising medium. It has no competitor.

In order to avoid delays, on account of personal affairs, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply THE STAR, or to the Editor or Business Department, according to tenor or purpose.

No Sugar Dictation.

Are the sugar growing interests of the United States to be permitted to control the question of sugar importations into this country? The agrarians of Germany control the meat importations into that country? The war against American meat in Germany is the work of the agrarians. The German supply of meat is insufficient for the demand. Prices, therefore, are high. American meat is wholesome and desirable, and if their importation were facilitated prices would be lowered and the people well fed. But American meat is denounced as impure and dangerous, and the German eaters reap the benefits of the crusade. It seems to make no difference that Germany's exports to the United States, which in amount are infinitely larger than her imports of American meat, are likely to suffer as the result of this policy. The agrarians consider only the shutting out of our meats, without regard to consequences.

The sugar growing interests of this country are behind the policy of keeping up a tariff wall against Porto Rico. Mr. Oxnard, representing the beet sugar growers, is busy on the outside of Congress, and two Louisiana men, representing cane growing constituents, voted for the tariff bill when it passed the House. Sugar is Porto Rico's chief staple, and it comes to this market in the raw state. There are no refineries in the island. So that to the extent that Porto Rican sugar is taxed in this country it is at a disadvantage with the sugars, beet and cane, grown here.

Porto Rico and Hawaii are now American territory. Their interests are our interests. We cannot afford to exploit them, or to retard their growth, for the benefit of private interests here or there. They are entitled to both justice and generosity on our hands, and any other course toward them will be discreditable to those who shape it.

The Transvaal and Spain. President Kruger negotiating for peace within a fortnight after the first Boer reverse in the field makes anything but an impressive figure. It is a wise move on his part, and one instinctively hopes for his success. But it makes sad havoc of his previous reputation as a statesman. It rubs him of the glory of being a last ditch fighter. It is likewise disastrous to his reputation as a statesman of foresight. For if he was so soon to be done for, what was he begun for? Did he really fancy that England would not fight in South Africa? Or did he consider that the Boer power was the stronger there?

Not unlikely, the Transvaal was misled about England as Spain was misled about England. If Spain had been properly advised about the power of the United States, of the sincerity of the feeling here on the subject of Cuba, and of how far the government in an emergency would go in obedience to that feeling, she would probably have set her house in Cuba in order. That would have saved her and benefited her. But she listened to Senor de Lome, who was then in London, and to the English dispatches, and she was misled. Spain's talk about the Yankee pigs, their challenge of a great power like England to battle with on a par with Spain's challenge to us. Had President Kruger been a prudent statesman he would have set his house in order. He had confessed to the justice of many of the complaints of the Outlanders by promising to remedy matters. And he was willing to do that now. But the war had entered into the calculation, and must shape the terms of settlement. England will demand reimbursement for her enormous outlays, and assurances of absolute safety for all of her South African interests for the future.

There is no likelihood of outside interference. England will continue with a free hand. Her aim will be to strengthen herself in every way, and European powers, whatever their feelings may be, will not say her nay.

Eugene Debs proposes to get back into politics as a candidate. Mr. Debs feels unable to trust the work of reform to anybody else and will consent to be a candidate for the presidency himself. He has not offered the vice presidential place on the ticket to W. J. Bryan.

Senator Davis has no objection to its being called the Hay-Pauncefote treaty so long as he gets some of it written according to his ideas.

The Amere's Statement. The announcement by the Amere of Afghanistan that he remains true to his English friends and fears Russia is calculated to cause a stir in Europe. Russian advances toward the frontier of India have brought the Amere into considerable speculative attention. A feeling has developed during the past few years that although bound by certain ancient ties to the Indian government, he was nevertheless secretly in sympathy with the Muscovite movement toward the Indian ocean. His real power has been estimated both as slight and as great. The truth doubtless is that his strength lies in his faith and in the fair assurance that he could soon precipitate a religious uprising through Western Asia by a call upon the Mussulmans to protect their faith. Russia has heretofore acted with rare discretion in tolerating the religious peculiarities of the peoples through whose lands it has driven its power. But it appears from the Amere's statement that the Mussulmans are now looking suspiciously toward St. Petersburg and trembling for fear of a Russian invasion of their faith. Here, at least, is where England has never flinched. She has always respected the religious doctrines of the savage and barbaric peoples whom she has introduced to civilized gov-

ernment and had greatly profited in consequence. The Amere's frank declaration of friendship for England is nevertheless somewhat surprising and may precipitate diplomatic complications of a serious nature. It may prove upon development that the Amere is but a blind, ensnared by Russia, and calculated to lull England into a false security while the Muscovite continues to burrow toward the Persian gulf and the Indian border. It is to be expected that the government at London will forthwith, with diplomatic astuteness, proceed to put the Amere to a test and to sound the depths of his sincerity. He is indeed in a somewhat precarious position, for he is exposed to attack upon all sides, and is directly in the path of what many Europeans consider the certain march of contending battalions in the near future. If his present announcement is honest it may be taken, therefore, as a bid for an alliance with the power which the estimates to be the stronger of the two. Just how far the recent triumph of British arms in South Africa has affected the shrewd Mussulman's new attitude it is at present impossible to estimate.

A Golden Opportunity.

The Commissioners report to the Senate as to the value of the south side of Pennsylvania avenue should go far to convince Congress of the economy of a present purchase of all this ground for the future building needs of the government. They estimate that the squares fronting on Pennsylvania avenue from the Botanic Garden to the Treasury are worth today \$3,200,000, with a present rental value of \$28,218, or about 2 1/2 per cent. It may well be questioned whether the government could secure as much ground for so small a sum if the present policy of buying here and there as fancy or influence suggests should be pursued further. It is assured that it could not obtain anything like as convenient a series of sites for its public buildings, nor could it spend \$3,000,000 elsewhere as well for the betterment of the city. Indeed, when the improvement is considered, the price estimated by the Commissioners is a mere bagatelle, scarcely worthy of consideration. Never was chance for a better investment offered any money, public or private. The government may rest assured, too, that the opportunity is better today than it will be a year hence, or five years. Notwithstanding the present depressed condition of this land, it is affected by the steady rise in Washington property values through the growth of the city, and the improvement of the north side of Pennsylvania avenue through private enterprise. There is no guarantee that the present owners of this south-side property will not proceed in the near future to improve their lands. Any tendency toward this end whatever would very soon run the value of the improvements, at present below the value of the land, far above the latter, thus adding to both sides of the account. Clearly the time to act has come. Conditions for a splendid bargain, certain to redound to the future welfare of the capital and to the great convenience and economical administration of the government, are ready at hand and the opportunity should be forthwith improved.

Sympathy and Secrecy.

It was decidedly unkind for the Senate yesterday to close its doors immediately upon the rise of Mr. Mason in his place to talk sympathy for the Boers. Of what earthly use is a sympathetic speech in the Senate if it cannot be heard by the galleries, and reported verbatim to the world? It means a waste of energy, of time, of sympathy. A cruel, practical move may have been made by the Senate yesterday to curtail the outpouring of sympathetic syntax. The secret session lasted just twelve minutes. Had the doors been open, with the galleries filled with breathless listeners, with the reporters feverishly scribbling the syllables of every word, the Illinois sympathizer, it is not to be doubted that the speech would have been much longer. Circumstances alter cases. Incidentally it may be questioned whether a similar course pursued by the Senate with regard to the Philippines during the past year would not have saved many American and Philippine lives and spared the world a deplorable spectacle. It is assuredly the prevalent American opinion today that the freedom with which the Filipino sympathizers were permitted to voice their sentiments in the open led to the prolongation of the insurrection. It mattered but little when the Boston branch of the Aid Society began to bestir the air with vociferous protest. Those agitators voiced an official, unauthorized sentiment which was clearly unrepresentative of the American people. But it was different when senators arose in their places in the higher branch of Congress and solemnly lauded the Filipino rebels as patriots and denounced the American soldiers as murderers. Such utterances were speeded to the aid of the insurrection, and they revealed the action of the government, as revealing the administration in the minority, as indicating the real thought of the nation.

Far Side of the Side.

A majority of the Commissioners having decided to change the "near-side" rule for the stopping of street cars, it is to be hoped that they will permit the substitute to remain in force for at least half a year, to give the people a chance to accustom themselves to the new order for a few months. And it is to be further hoped that if later they should decide to change back they may finally sit upon a swinging schedule, alternating between the two rules, and be plain understanding that the spring and summer months shall be devoted to the far-side system and the autumn and winter months to the near-side plan. By this means perhaps everybody would be pleased, although doubtless the method might be confusing and possibly dangerous to those who pay slight attention to the mandates from the District buildings and to the calendar.

The Queen of England succeeds in arousing the greatest enthusiasm by simply appearing in public, without saying a word on tariff or currency propositions.

It is too much to expect that the Porto Ricans will welcome the tax collectors with bouquets and brass bands as they welcomed the soldiers.

The Montana legislature might preserve itself from suspicion by providing for a crematory to take care of surplus money.

President Kruger need not expect any rebates on war indemnity because of the British complacency in Boer valor.

The Debsonian Party.

It is at last wiser from Indianapolis that Eugene V. Debs has consented to run for the presidency. He was in doubt several days. He was a living example of the truth that the office should seek the man. To be sure, it has not exactly sought him as yet, but the difference is only one of detail. The fact is that the social democracy is seeking it on to him in a most determined manner, and has actually succeeded in securing the services of another organization to help. This is the socialist labor party, which in 1898 amassed the formidable total of 33,445 votes for Eugene V. Debs for president. The actual strength of the social democracy is as yet unmeasured. It had no candidate in the field in 1896, at least none visible. It may be that it will roll up a large enough vote this year to effect a winning, coupled with the 33,445 of its latest ally. In that event it was most astute on the part of Mr. Debs to wait until the socialist labor party had been wooed and won. Practical politicians

cannot be too careful about their alliances. Now a new name for the combination is to be adopted, by means of that ever ready device, the referendum. It is currently reported that at present the most earnestly favored suggestion for the new title is "Debsonianism." With such a re-nouncement is but a blind, ensnared by the new party might swell into formidable proportions. A name like that would, at all events, be more euphonious and pleasing than "popocratic," which has been currently applied since 1896 to the Bryan combination. Meanwhile, the country awaits with bated breath for the Debsonian declaration of principles. Judging from the past career and the known principles of the luminous central planet of this new political constellation, it is likely to be even more defiant of man and all his organized works than the Chicago platform.

If the lack of uniformity in the marriage laws of the various States ever comes up for practical consideration Mr. Roberts of Utah may have an opportunity to claim public attention again as an expert witness. It seems incredible that the same New York police system which made such a stand of purity in the drama should be under even a faint suspicion of taking bribes from gamblers.

It will be a little difficult to impress the argument that Porto Rico is so poor that it ought to be hauled around and pay itself some money.

SHOOTING STARS.

A Change of Phrase.

"Look here!" said Senator Sorghum as he was reading over the speech which one of his orator friends had just about to deliver. "You mustn't call that fellow a vile henchman."

"But you said—"

"Never mind the past. He came over to our side yesterday. Call him 'that loyal and trusted adherent.'"

Bills.

When spring is smiling o'er the trees,
And all the world is gay;
When perfume lingers in the breeze
And sorrows fade away;
When sweet clouds across the sky,
Like fleecy things, sail on,
We'll sit in ecstasy and sigh,
"We needn't buy more coal!"

Unpleasant Advice.

"What you want to do is to keep going onward and upward."

"No," said the Boer prisoner. "We may keep going onward, but I don't think we'll go upward. I doubt if we will climb another kopje this year."

Ready to Edit.

"Where's that music Dolly was playing this morning?" asked Mr. Cumrox.

"On the piano," answered his wife, "what do you want with it?"

"Dolly, going to fix it up. I got Dolly to show me the marks that mean 'repeat,' and I'm going to take this eraser and rub 'em out.'"

Something for Nothing.

"You can't get something for nothing in this life," said the philosopher.

"Oh, I don't know," answered the practical politician. "It was only the other day a man told me he was going to help elect me because he believed I was on the right side. His vote isn't going to cost me a cent."

Oom Paul.

Often of late my portrait they disclose
Smoking a pipe. The semblance of repose.
The shoulders drooping and the half-shut eye
Perchance deceive the casual passer-by.
But as I blew each fragrant cloud I thought;
And oft with bitterness the weed was fraught.
My mind turned back to days when, free
From care,
My pipe perfumed the tranquil Afric air;
And backward still to that far boyhood scene.
When first I tried the joys of nicotine.
Ah me! How trifling was that boyish ill!
A pipe of peace for me the Britons fill
With franchises, concessions and the like,
And summon Mars a sulphurous light to strike.
Perhaps, when it is over, I will find,
Much comfort and much added peace of mind.
But still I hesitate and seek release.
It makes me sick indeed—this pipe of peace.

Adulteration of Food.

From the Medical Record.
This is a matter which has within the past few years assumed a somewhat alarming phase. While granting that in many instances the dangers arising from this cause have been greatly exaggerated, and that for the most part the chemicals used in the adulteration have little harmful effect, yet the time has come when the public mind is being so much alarmed by the reports of the adulteration of food that it is not possible for the article offered for sale were what it is labeled. An individual has a right to know what he is buying, and to obtain exactly that which he requires, and this right should be protected by law. It is said, and there would seem to be no cause to doubt the truth of the statement, that the adulteration of food is carried on to a greater extent in the United States than in any country in the world. The various states are unable by their own police regulations effectually to protect their citizens from such practice. Therefore the only course to be pursued is, in the words of the memorial from the National Pure Food and Drug Congress, held in March, 1898, "to secure suitable legislation of a national character to prevent the adulteration of food, drinks and drugs, and to secure the enforcement of such laws."

Overhead Wires.

From the St. Louis Republic.
The experience which St. Louis had with her street cars during the blizzard of last rain, snow and ice Tuesday night proves that the overhead electric system has one defect which can rise to serious proportions on occasion. The danger to life from falling electric light wires was greater than the danger of a mailcoach accident. Yesterday's experience was an unanswerable argument for underground wiring. The street car should long ago have been compelled to use underground wires. The lighting, telegraph and telephone companies, as well as the city itself, have neglected the requirements of the future. Yesterday's lesson should be useful.

Consular Reform.

From the Philadelphia Telegraph.
In the first place in the fundamental requirement in the case of a consular or diplomatic official should be ability to read, write and speak the language of the country to which he is accredited. The third-rate states are usually compelled to pay in payment for work done in election campaigns, may contrive to scrape through a civil service examination, and then, but not one in a hundred of them knows a word of any language except our own. If we are to have an efficient and effective force in our consular service it will be necessary as a preliminary to find means for educating young men in the language, literature, history, customs and existing conditions of foreign countries.

A Little Out of Date.

General Weaver and Jerry Simpson will stump the country this year, sponsored for the democratic nominee. Time was when either would draw, but now it takes two of them.

Yale's Commendable Stand.

From the New York Evening Sun.
The captain of the Yale football team has written all aspirants to attend to their regular work if they expect to do well in athletics. If this sort of thing goes on a place on one of the teams will mean as much as the possession of a degree.

300 1-lb. loaves to the barrel.

The Fall of Rome

—was due, in a great measure, to the degeneracy of its people. The sturdy "barbarians" from the north found little opposition to their invasion of the "eternal city"—the Romans having lost their vaunted strength and vigor in their indulgence in unwholesome luxuries. The strength of a nation lies in its people. The mental and physical vigor of a people depends much on the food.

Cream Blend FLOUR

Is a HEALTH FOOD. Bread made of "Cream Blend" is a food that nourishes mind and body—makes brain, brawn, blood. Mothers who want their children to be worthy representatives of our "Great Republic" should use "Cream Blend" for all their baking.

"Cream Blend" Flour is a blend of the cream of spring and winter wheat flour—and is absolutely pure. YOUR GROCER WILL SUPPLY YOU.

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JAMS.

THE little luxuries of the table make the meal complete. Have on hand a jar of one of these Fine Fruit Jams—the famous Allen & Nicholson brand—and you'll find they fit in nicely in the luncheon menu. All flavors—Strawberry, Cherry, Raspberry, Damson, etc., etc.

Special price per dozen jars, A JAR.

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The stocks were never brighter, fresher or more complete than right now, on the threshold of spring.

The New Dress Goods.

The most exclusive fabrics are shown here this season—scores of styles that are findable nowhere else. Paris contributes her contingent of super-elegant novelties, principally in one-of-a-kind patterns, wrought on hand looms for our exclusive use. London, Manchester, Glasgow and Berlin are also liberally represented.

Specially foremost among the favorites are the clinging fabrics—Paris stuffs of silk and wool, including Bareges, Grenadines, Voiles, Crepes, Crepe de Chine, Crepe de Paris and like fabrics, as sheer and clinging as veils.

And these elegant novelty stuffs must share the honors with the medium-price dress goods, as they have followed the dictates of Paris more closely than ever this season—the Scotch Homespins and Cheviots, the Oxford and Light Gray Cheviots, the Broadcloths, the Golf Plaids, etc., for Tailor Gowns, Separate Skirts, Golf and Bicycle costumes. These are shown in a vast variety of new colorings and effects.

Henrietta,
All wool, silk finish, in the new pastel shades—pink, blue, lavender and grays; also the staple grays, tans, browns, blues, reds, black, etc.

45 inches wide.....75c. a yard

Pastel Plaids
And checks, all wool, in exquisite color combinations—intended especially for women's waists and children's dresses.

38 inches wide.....\$1.00 a yard

Lansdowne,
Silk and wool, in pastel shades and a great variety of the more staple grays, tans, heliotrope, blues, etc.

40 inches wide.....\$1.25 a yard

Crepons,
All wool, in tan, gray, heliotrope and blue—the ideal soft, sheer, clinging fabric that drapes so beautifully.

40 inches wide.....\$1.50 a yard

Also Superb French Novelties
In one-of-a-kind Dress Patterns that are exclusive; manufactured on hand looms to our order, and without a duplicate here or elsewhere.

\$21.00, \$27.50, \$30.00 and \$35.00 the Pattern.

Also French Challis and Silk-Striped Javanaise
In new and beautiful effects. The Javanaise, from one of the best French makers, are peculiarly beautiful with their dainty silk stripes and big and little polka dots and figures.

Black Dress Goods.

The elegant, rich, lustrous Blacks show loom-plays of wondrous possibilities in the novelty styles and the equally delightful elegance of the plain weaves. Clinging fabrics in black are also in high favor and include in part Crepe de Chine; Bareges, plain and figured, all wool and silk and wool; Crepe Olga, Taffeta Poplin, Crepe Japon, etc.

Among the more modest fabrics are Nun's Veiling, Batiste, Wool Challis, Clairette, Barege, Henrietta, Serge, Cheviot and many other weaves in black, which will be much in evidence for spring and summer.

Special reference is made to Grenadines, of which we show a most comprehensive line of recently imported high-class novelties in all-silk and silk and wool, the productions of the cleverest of French, English and German weavers. All the newest fads of the fashion designers—and no more beautiful examples of these triumphs can be imagined.

Pin-Stripe Grenadine,
All wool, with satin pin stripes quarter inch apart.

43 inches wide.....\$1.50 a yard

Pin-Stripe Grenadine,
All silk, very sheer, with pin stripes quarter inch apart.

44 inches wide.....\$1.25 a yard

Crepon Grenadine,
All silk, very sheer, with crepon effect, with stripe one and a half inches apart.

43 inches wide.....\$2.00 a yard

Sewing Silk Grenadine,
All silk, with narrow satin stripes, with figures between.

44 inches wide.....\$1.75 a yard

Sewing Silk Grenadine,
All silk, with satin stripe, about two inches apart and figures between.

44 inches wide.....\$2.00 a yard

Fish Net Grenadine,
All silk, net mesh—requiring an under dress of black or fancy color.

44 inches wide.....\$1.25 & \$1.75 a yard

Ribbon Grenadine,
All silk, with ribbon stripe on wavy effect crepon ground.

44 inches wide.....\$2.00 a yard

Tied Ribbon Grenadine,
Or "clasp band" Grenadine—a novelty, having ribbon stripes tied at every two inches, very sheer and beautiful.

44 inches wide.....\$2.50 a yard

Also a Great Variety of Grenadines,
All wool and silk and wool, in plain mesh, taffeta, etc., 44 and 45 inches wide.

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Also Exclusive Imported Novelties
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